

U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that James Labar Overton, age 25, of Hampton, Virginia, was sentenced in United States District Court today to 292 months in prison for his role in a drug trafficking network responsible for the distribution of over 97 kilograms of crack cocaine and powder cocaine on the streets of Hampton from approximately 1998 until the fall of 2003.

Overton was arrested in October 2003 after an extensive eight-month investigation led by members of the Hampton Police Division and Task Force officers with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The state/federal cooperative investigation into Overton's activities exposed an estimated \$4.5 million cocaine distribution ring that had been operating for almost five years in the Peninsula cities of Hampton and Newport News. The investigation was initiated after Overton, a marijuana user, was arrested in possession of a firearm, a violation of federal law. As part of the investigation, federal and state authorities seized approximately \$8,500 in cash, \$14,000 worth of diamond jewelry, two firearms, a 1997 Cadillac, and six televisions, which were all illegal proceeds of his drug sales and are being forfeited to the United States.

United States Attorney Paul J. McNulty said: "The prosecution of armed drug dealers is a priority of the Department of Justice and this office. We will continue to work with local law enforcement to identify these individuals and remove them from our streets."

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Sherrie S. Capotosto.

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